

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

MARGARET RUDIN,

Plaintiff,

v.

TANYA HILL et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:15-cv-02503-MMD-NJK

ORDER

I. DISCUSSION

Plaintiff is a prisoner in the custody of the Nevada Department of Corrections (“NDOC”). (ECF No. 21 at 1). On December 31, 2015, Plaintiff, *pro se*, initiated this case by submitting a civil rights complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and filing an application to proceed *in forma pauperis*. (ECF No. 1, 1-1). On March 2, 2017, this Court appointed Travis N. Barrick, Esq. as *pro bono* counsel in this case. (ECF No. 22).

The general rule under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A is that “[t]he court shall review . . . a complaint in a civil action in which a prisoner seeks redress from the governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity” and “shall identify cognizable claims or dismiss the complaint, or any portion of the complaint” if it is “frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted; or . . . seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief.” 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a), (b).

Section 1915A does not expressly differentiate between represented and unrepresented prisoner cases with regard to screening, and there is no authority addressing this issue. This Court typically does not screen § 1983 prisoner cases where the Plaintiff is represented by counsel. For one thing, the pleading obligations of an attorney under Fed. R.

1 Civ. P. 11 tend to substantially reduce the incidence of claims that are frivolous or otherwise
2 patently noncognizable on their face. Pro se litigants are not attorneys and should not be
3 expected to know how to draft pleadings as if they were. Judicial screening of prisoner
4 complaints serves to prevent prisoner complaints which are truly difficult, if not impossible to
5 understand, from being served upon defendants. Screening of represented cases to decipher
6 the allegations and claims is usually unnecessary. See, e.g., *Nordstrom v. Ryan*, 762 F.3d
7 903, 907 n.1 (9th Cir. 2014) (noting that the “purpose of § 1915A is to ensure that the targets
8 of frivolous or malicious suits need not bear the expense of responding”); *O’Neal v. Price*, 531
9 F.3d 1146, 1153 (9th Cir. 2008) (explaining that the PLRA’s screening provision was intended
10 to “conserve judicial resources by authorizing district courts to dismiss nonmeritorious prisoner
11 complaints at an early stage”). As such, the Court will not screen the second amended
12 complaint (ECF No. 21) in this counseled prisoner case. This case shall proceed on the
13 normal litigation track as guided by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

14 **II. CONCLUSION**

15 For the foregoing reasons, IT IS ORDERED that the Court will not issue a screening
16 order on the second amended complaint in this case.

17 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this case shall proceed on the normal litigation track
18 as guided by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

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20 DATED: This 6th day of March, 2017.

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23 NANCY J. KOPPE
24 United States Magistrate Judge
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